



165 Brick Store Landing Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
302-659-DEMA (3362) or 1-877-SAY DEMA  
FAX 302-659-6853

## **MEDIA ALERT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, February 13, 2007  
11:30 a.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT:** Rosanne Pack  
(302) 222-6573

# **WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS REMINDERS FOR THE PUBLIC**

With a mixed bag of winter weather upon Delaware now, Delaware Emergency Management Agency asks that media outlets continue to help to keep the public updated on conditions and reminded of basic safety and preparedness actions. This basic information is the same as released previously, but it's helpful to keep it in front of our residents.

Snow accumulation is not expected to be significant at any location in the state, but snow and/or rain on top of snow could make rush hour travel difficult Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. Commuters should monitor road conditions and allow extra time for travel. Drivers should be aware of road maintenance crews and emergency responders who have to travel at this time.

Kent and New Castle counties are under a Winter Weather Advisory from noon Tuesday, February 13 until 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14. Snow in those counties is more likely to turn to sleet and freezing rain before changing over to all rain. Snow in Sussex is expected to turn to rain tonight, and rain could be heavy at times. The a greater potential for more freezing rain in northern Delaware could lead to icing conditions on some roads, trees and utility wires.

Temperatures will remain in the low- to mid-30s through Tuesday and Wednesday, but will not drop below freezing in most areas. This will help hold down snow accumulation and keep some low lying ponded areas and water on roads from freezing. However, colder temperatures return later in the week and remaining wet areas will become icy.

This is a good time for families to review their emergency plans and supplies in order to be prepared for power outages or the possibility of restricted travel in the future.

The following is a list of activities and supplies for winter preparedness:

### **Prepare a Winter Storm Plan:**

Be prepared to "camp out" in your home for up to three days if roads are impassable and/or you lose power.

Know where your family will go if you lose power and have to evacuate – Red Cross shelter, home of friends or family, hotel?

Make sure family and friends know where you will be.

Plan for transporting your pets to safety, if you have to evacuate.

Have extra blankets on hand.

Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.

Keep pets properly sheltered, bring them indoors if possible, or place them in a heated, dry space with ample unfrozen water.

### **Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit Containing:**

First aid kit and essential medications and other items for those with special needs such as infants or persons with functional disabilities.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.

Enough non-perishable food to last for at least three days. Don't forget a manual can opener in case the power does go out. And don't forget supplies for your pets – food, cat litter, etc.

Remember, food can be warmed over a fire place and stored outside if the temperatures are low enough.

Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day to last at least 3 days. And don't forget water for pets!).

Extra layers of clothing keep you warmer and allows removing when warm and adding back when temperatures drop.

Assemble a scaled-down emergency supply kit for your car, too. Include a blanket, small containers of water, snacks and a first aid kit.

Have your car winterized before winter storms arrive.

### **Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings**

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.

Know what winter storm WATCHES and WARNINGS mean:

A winter storm WATCH means a winter storm is possible in your area.

A winter storm WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill are expected. Seek shelter immediately!

### **When a Winter Storm WATCH is Issued**

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and TV stations, or the Weather Channel for further updates.

Be alert to changing weather conditions.

Avoid unnecessary travel.

When a Winter Storm WARNING is issued, stay indoors during the storm.

If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

Understand the hazards of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.

Walk carefully on snowy, icy, sidewalks.

After the storm, if you shovel snow, be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so take frequent breaks. Avoid overexertion.

### **Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must:**

Carry an emergency supply kit, including flash lights and a cell phone if possible.

Keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

Always be aware of emergency or road maintenance vehicles and yield to them when driving.

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